

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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-----027547 171604Z /47

P R 171429Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 543
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JERUSALEM 788

EXDIS - NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, UNSC, LE, IS
SUBJ: DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR UN FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: JERUSALEM 786

1. UN SOURCE HAS PROVIDED US FOLLOWING TEXT OF DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR UN FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON WHICH UNTSO HAS PREPARED AND PLANS TO TRANSMIT TO UNNY MARCH 17. TEXT HAS NOT BEEN FULLY CLEARED BY UNTSO AND, AS NOTED IN REFTEL, DOES NOT INCLUDE PROVISION FOR CONTROLLING OVERFLIGHTS. AS THIS TEXT HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE BY OUR SOURCE, WE UNDERScore NEED FOR PROTECTION AND US/ONLY RESTRICTION.

2. QUOTE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED UN FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. PURPOSE: BASED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SETTING UP A UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, THE FOLLOWING STUDY IS DESIGNED TO OUTLINE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, POSSIBLE ORGANIZATION/FORCE STRUCTURE AND MISSION
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STATEMENT RECOMMENDED FOR SUCH AN EVENTUALITY.

II. TASK FORCE MISSION: THE FORCE MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) MAINTAIN PEACE AND ORDER IN THE AREA PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY THE IDF IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

(B) EXPEDITE AND SUPERVISE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON.

(C) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AREA OF SEPARATION BETWEEN LINE OF PRESENT IDF ADVANCE AND THE PRESENT ISRAELI/LEBANESE BORDER.

(D) CARRY OUT DEMILITARIZATION AND POSSIBLY CIVIL ADMINISTRATION OF THE AREA IN QUESTION UNTIL THE LEBANESE CIVIL GOVERNMENT CAN RE-ESTABLISH ITS AUTHORITY.

III. OPERATION TASKS: FORCE OPERATIONAL TASKS WOULD BE MILITARY AND ADMINISTRATION IN NATURE.

A. MILITARY TASKS:

1) PATROLLING AND CONTROLLING ACCESS INTO AND OUT OF AREA OF SEPARATION.

2) MAINTENANCE OF DEMILITARIZATION OF THE AREA.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS:

1) IN CO-ORDINATION WITH PRESENT ADMINISTRATION ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF CIVIL LAW AND ORDER.

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2) PUBLIC HEALTH AND SERVICES.

3) TO SOME DEGREE, RE-ESTABLISHING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES.

4) ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, TO INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL AID PROGRAMMES, AND SMALL BUSINESS PROJECTS.

IV. FORCE STRUCTURE. IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE MISSIONS OUTLINED EARLIER, AND CONSIDERING THE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS OF TERRAIN AND THE PRESENT RATHER HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT OF THE AREA, A RATHER LARGE FORCE IS ENVISIONED. IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE IDF NOW HAS IN THE AREA A DIVISION WITH TWO BRIGADES ALONG THE FRONT LINE AND ONE BRIGADE IN RESERVE, ALTOGETHER SOME 12,000 TO 15,000 TROOPS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE UN FORCE WOULD REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF FIVE BATTALIONS (3 MECHANIZED AND 500 PERSON EACH) (2 MOTORIZED 650 PERSON EACH). THESE BATTALIONS WOULD BE ASSIGNED SPECIFIC MILITARY/ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF OPERATION AND WOULD REPORT DIRECTLY TO A BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS. CENTRALLY LOCATED WITH ITS LOGISTICAL SUPPORT UNIT.

A. BATTALION ORGANIZATION: THE INFANTARY BATTALIONS, DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE MISSION, SHOULD BE ARMED WITH HEAVY

WEAPONS TO INCLUDE APC'S IN THE MECHANIZED BATTALIONS, AS WELL AS ANTI-TANK GUNS AND MORTARS. ADDITIONALLY EACH BATTALION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CIVIL AFFAIRS PROGRAMME IN ITS ASSIGNED SECTOR AND WOULD BE AUGMENTED WITH A SPECIAL CIVIL-AFFAIRS PLATOON FOR THE CONDUCT OF THIS MISSION. THIS PLATOON WOULD INCLUDE PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALISTS, TRANSLATORS, AND OTHER SPECIALIZED CIVIL AFFAIRS AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DEEMED NECESSARY.

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B. BRIGADE ORGANIZATION. THE FORCE HEADQUARTERS SHOULD BE CENTRALLY LOCATED AND COMPOSED OF SEVERAL SPECIAL TASK UNITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE MISSION. THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD INCLUDE, IN ADDITION TO ITS STAFF, THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES.

1) TANK COMPANY: ONE MEDIUM-TANK COMPANY OF THIRTY TANKS WITH CREWS, DIVIDED INTO FIVE COMPONENT PLATOONS FOR DIRECT ATTACHMENT TO THE FIVE INFANTRY BATTALIONS IF THE SITUATION REQUIRES.

2) AVIATION COMPANY: ONE RECONNAISSANCE/TRANSPORT DUAL PURPOSE AVIATION COMPANY CONSISTING OF TEN TRANSPORT HELICOPTERS (UH-1D) AND 6 RECONNAISSANCE/OBSERVATION HELICOPTERS (OH-58). THIS COMPANY SHOULD HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF SHORT-RANGE HIGH LOAD TRANSPORT AND RECONNAISSANCE WITHIN THE AREA OF OPERATION.

3) ENGINEER COMPANY: THE INCLUSION OF AN ENGINEER COMPANY IS PROPOSED BOTH TO CLEAR PRESENT MINEFIELDS WITHIN THE

AREA OF OPERATION AS WELL AS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH CIVIL AFFAIRS
AND CIVIL ADMINISTRATION ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PROPOSED CIVIL
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4) RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY: THE RECCE COMPNAY SHOULD BE ASSIGNED
QUICK REACTION SPECIAL PURPOSE TASKS, AND IN ADDITION SHOULD
INCLUDE A SEA-PATROL CAPABILITY.

5) CIVIL AFFAIRS COMPANY: THE ORGANIZATION WOULD BE THE
HEART OF THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS AND WOULD WORK CLOSELY
WITH THE CIVIL AFFAIRS PLATOONS IN EACH BATTALION.
ADDITIONALLY A CIVIL POLICE ORGANIZATION MIGHT BE INCLUDED
IN THIS ELEMENT.

C. LOGISTICAL BATTALION. THE LOGISTICAL SUPPOORT SHOULD BE
CENTERED AROUND A LOGISTICAL BATTALION CO-LOCATED AT BRIGADE
HEADQUARTERS AND CONSISTING OF TRANSPORT, MEDICAL, MAINTENANCE,
SIGNAL AND MILITARY POLICE SUB-UNITS.

D. THE TOTAL STRENGTH ENVISIONED TO CARRY OUT THE OPERATION WOULD
BE APPROXIMATELY 5,500 MEN.

V. CONCLUSIONS: FOLLOWING ARE SOME GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS AND
CONSULSIONS RESULTING FROM THE STUDY THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED:

A. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE ORGANS OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT THE
FORCE MAY TEMPORARILY PERFORM CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER
GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS. FOR THAT PURPOSE THE FORCE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGH
T
TO SEARCH HOUSES AND PREMISES, TO ARREST, AND TO USE FORCE
NOT IN SELF-DEFENCE ONLY.

B. IT IS ENVISIONED THAT AT SOME TIME TO BE DETERMINED THESE CIVIL
ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO LEBANESE CIVIL
ADMINISTRATORS. AS A FIRST STEP THE INTRODUCTION OF LEBANESE
CIVILIAN POLICE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.
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C. ADDITIONALLY IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE THE
ENTIRE FORCE BE DRAWN FROM ONE COUNTRY, OR NATIONALITY, AND
BE HOMOGENEOUS IN ITS CHARACTER. THIS FACTOR SHOULD APPLY FOR
BOTH LOGISTICS AND GROUND FORCES. IF NECESSARY THE SENIOR
STAFF OF THE HEADQUARTERS COULD BE MULTI-NATIONAL.

D. FINALLY THE MISSION OF THE PRESENT ILMAC ORGANIZATION SHLD
REMAIN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME, AND THE OBSERVERS WOULD, IT IS
ENVISIONED, COME UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE FORCE
COMMANDER PRESENTLY USED IN UNEF. IT IS FELT THAT THE EXPERTISE
OF THE PRESENT ILMAC OBSERVERS WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO THE INITIAL
ON THE GROUND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FORCE.

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